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Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earlier this term we had a routine monitoring visit from Ofsted. The purpose of this visit was to evaluate our progress since the previous full Ofsted inspection (July 2022) to ensure we are 'good' at the next inspection. The monitoring visit consisted of a one-day process and Ofsted provides schools with one of two possible judgements:

Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the school to become good.

Or

The school continues to require improvement. Leaders have made insufficient progress.

I am delighted to inform you that Ofsted have recognised that our school is making progress and we have been judged: **Leaders have made progress to improve the school.**

It was important that we showed the Inspector that our plans for change have been the right ones, and that we have the right staff and support in place to make those changes happen. You'll see from the Ofsted report that they agree we have.

We are also pleased that the Inspector agreed on the areas where we know we have made progress: on the strength of our strategic leadership plans, the brokering and effective implementation of external support and the strength of our curriculum. The Inspector also recommended the significant improvements to attendance, the learning behaviours and support for the pupils in school and the provision in EYFS. The Inspector noted the extensive training opportunities offered to staff and how leaders care for staff workload and well-being. The Inspector also recognised the effective subject leadership work of the school.

It was also important to show that we know where our priority areas for action are. We continue to ensure that all staff model the skills of reading fluently and use effective strategies to help pupils develop their ability to identify sounds and read words (phonics). Furthermore staff ensure that all pupils can recall the learning that has taken place, including in EYFS.

The report is now available to share with you and will be available on both the Ofsted and school website on Monday 13th November. I am delighted to be able to share some of the highlights with you.

"Leaders' strategies are having a positive impact on pupils' education and their experience of school."

“Leaders have time to monitor the subjects through lesson visits and reviewing samples of pupils’ work. They use the information gathered as part of reviews to identify priorities and introduce strategies.”

“The school has a well-sequenced curriculum in place. Teachers know when pupils should learn particular knowledge and skills as they study the curriculum. Teachers have secure knowledge of the subjects they teach. They regularly check pupils’ understanding.”

“The school has ensured that the curriculum identifies precisely what children should know and be able to do at each point throughout the Reception year. Staff use this curriculum to plan activities which help children to build their knowledge.”

“Most younger pupils and children in the early years behave calmly and focus on their learning. Staff consistently use behaviour strategies to help pupils manage their behaviour. They develop positive relationships with pupils and use their language carefully to help pupils to stay calm and make sensible choices.”

“At the time of the previous inspection, leaders were challenged to check with greater rigour the attendance of pupils who were persistently absent. They have responded well to this challenge. The school has clear systems in place to check attendance.”

I am happy that the report is a fair reflection of the work we have completed so far together. It is a boost to have the hard work of staff recognised as well as the progress that we have made.

I have drawn-up an Ofsted action plan in response to the recommendations from the inspection so that we can address the areas quickly and ensure we are securely a good school at the next inspection. I believe that the areas of focus are highly achievable and work already commenced through our school development plan at the start of the academic year.

As a school we are pleased that the dedication of the staff and Governors has been acknowledged. We are also incredibly proud of all the children who attend our school and grateful for your continued support.

Due to the Ofsted regulatory system of a ‘Monitoring Visit’, the school’s Ofsted rating cannot be changed until the next full inspection. However, given the positive nature of the monitoring report and its recognition of the school’s rapid progress, the school is clearly in a strong position moving forward.

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